

DR. GAIL HENSON

Gail Henson, Ph. D., is Chairperson of the Department of Communications at Bellarmine College. She has taught at Bellarmine since 1984; she taught at the University of Louisville for twelve years prior to coming to Bellarmine. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from DePauw University, spent a year at St. Mary's College of Divinity at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland, and earned a Ph. D. in Renaissance Literature from the University of Louisville. She has done post-doctoral work at Indiana University School of Journalism. While at Bellarmine, she has served as president of the Faculty Senate, advisor to the student newspaper and yearbook, been elected Teacher of the Year, won the Miles Award for Civic Service, and has been an active leader in service learning (having students connect classroom learning with service to the community). She has taught intercultural communication in Austria and at the University of London, and will teach that in Greece and Italy Summer 2002.

She has served on numerous civic boards, receiving the WLKY-Spirit of Louisville Bell Award in 2001. Her current board service includes being on the Kentucky Board of Education, the National Unit Accreditation Board of NCATE, the P-16 Council for the State of Kentucky, the Kentuckiana Girl Scouts Council, the Trustees of the Louisville Nature Center. Previous board experience includes serving as vice-chair of the Jefferson County Public Schools Board of Education regional director for the Kentucky School Boards Association, as well as serving on the boards of the Cabbage Patch, the Lou Tate Foundation, and various boards of the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, among others. She was a member of the founding boards of the Louisville International Cultural Center and TWIGS of Children's Hospital Foundation. While on the Jefferson County School Board, she was active in applying for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation grant for middle school reform.

Dr. Henson has served with the Presbytery of Louisville's mission task force, ecumenical advisory council, and currently serves on the communication committee. She is an elder and children's choir director at Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church. She has served on the Archdiocese of Louisville's Refugee and Migration Committee. Dr. Henson has been an active volunteer, serving as a Girl Scout Leader for Troop 103 from 1987-1991 and Area 12 Community Communicator. She has served in numerous capacities in PTA and other volunteer work at I N Bloom Elementary, Samuel Coleridge Taylor Elementary, Meyzeek and Highland Middle Schools, and Atherton High School.

She is the author of numerous articles in *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, *The Louisville Encyclopedia*, and *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Culture*. She has been a free-lance writer over the years for *Business First* and was as editor of *Horizon*, the bi-monthly newspaper of the Kentuckiana Interfaith community. Her research area is in children and media and issues in aging.

Dr. Henson has been married 25 years to Ed Henson, a media broker who sells radio stations. They have three children: Elizabeth, a senior Special Education major at Bellarmine; Ted, a freshman at Vanderbilt University; and John, a junior at DuPont Manual.